**SEVENTH COMMANDMENT**

*You shall not commit adultery.*

Exodus 20:14

Pastor Donald Barnhouse (d.1960) shared the story about a man who fell into the temptation of lust with his secretary.

One day I was visited by a young man in his thirties, who told

me his story. He said, “I work for a company and have a private office. Several months ago, my secretary was absent and I had

to use another girl. One day she brought papers for my perusal;

she got too close, and when she leaned over my desk, she let her

hair trail across my face.

I fought it down, but after all, I am a man, and toward the end of the day I put my hand on her she came right back to be kissed.

Even while kissing her, I was visualizing my two children running to meet me and my wife standing in the door. I hated what I was doing, but I kept on. I had the greatest desire to push her from me, but I kept pulling her to me; my body was doing one thing and

my mind was doing another.

Proverbs 6:20-35 is a warning about committing adultery.

:27-29 *Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scored?*

*So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.* :32 *He who commits adultery lacks sense;*

 *he who does it destroys himself.*

Henry – “The way of this sin is down-hill, and those that

venture upon the temptations to it hardly escape the sin itself . . .

he thrusts himself into temptation and so throws himself

 out of God’s protection. “

**MARRIAGE IS SACRED**

God ordained marriage for the good of man and woman so together they might encourage and support one another.

Thomas Watson – “Marriage is the mutual promise of living

 together faithfully according to God’ holy ordinance.”

Marriage is an exclusive relationship between a man and a woman who commit themselves to each other under a covenant before God for life and on the basis of this solemn vow become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24 *A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife and they shall become one flesh* (heart, mind, soul).

Thomas Adams – “As God by creation made two (Adam and Eve)

 of one (from Adam), so by marriage he made one of two.”

Proverbs 2:16-17 *The adulteress with her smooth words forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God.*

**Marriage is a covenant a husband and wife make before God.**

Calvin – “God is the founder of marriage. When a marriage takes place between a man and a woman, God presides and requires a mutual pledge from both. Proverbs 2:17 calls marriage the covenant of God, for it is superior to all human contracts.

So also, God by his authority joins the man to the woman.”

**MARRIGE IS ENCOURAGED**

**Adults should marry so they are not tempted to sexual sin.**

I Corinthians 7:2 *Because of the temptation to sexual immorality each man should have his own wife and each woman should have*

 *her own husband*.

Not being married brings with it the temptation to fulfill sexual desires outside of marriage. One purpose of marriage was for believers to avoid committing the sin of sexual immorality.

**ADULTERY IS FORBIDDEN**

 **Defined**

Adultery comes from the root word: to alter or corrupt.

**It is to change the original meaning or purpose of something**.

An example would be corrupting a child of their innocence.

Adultery in marriage is corrupting the emotional and physical union between husband and wife by having sex with someone who is not your lawful and legal husband or your lawful and legal wife.

* It breaks the covenant you made before God.
* It breaks the covenant you made to your spouse.

Therefore, they are guilty of sinning against God and your spouse.

Ruben, Jacob’s oldest son, slept with his father’s concubine.

Genesis 49:4 *Ruben . . . you shall not have preeminence,*

*because you went up to your father’s bed and defiled it* (35:22).

*Defiled* – Heb. *to dishonor or violate what should be respected*.

Used of breaking the Sabbath (Ex. 31:14) and misusing the peace offering which was expressing thanks to God (Lev. 19:8).

 **Cause**

Watson – “The fountain (cause) of this sin is lust.

Since the fall, holy love has degenerated to lust.”

Romans 1:24-25 *God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts*

*to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,*

 *because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and*

 *worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.*

 **Mind**

**1. Sin begins in our mind and then acted out in our lives.**

Matthew 15:19 *Out of the heart come evil thoughts,*

 *murder, adultery, sexual immorality* . . .

Watson – “There is contriving the sin in the mind,

then consent in the will, and then the sin put into act.”

**2. Sexual sin is first thought about before it is acted on.**

Genesis 39:6-7 *Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time, Potiphar’s wife cast her eyes on Jospeh*

 *and said, “Lie with me.”*

**3. Lust for a person is the first step to sexual sin.**

 Matthew 5:28 *Everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent*

 *has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

Calvin – “Those who have polluted their eyes by an immodest look, are adulterers before God. The eyes are taken for the whole person and the lust of the heart, render men guilty of adultery.”

 **Physical**

**1. It is an especially evil sin.**

Job 31:11 He calls the sin of adultery a *heinous crime.*

NKJ *wickedness,* NLT *shameful* – Heb. *an evil plan or wicked sin.*

The word is used of the sins of: incest (Lev. 18:17), prostitution (Lev. 19:29) and rape (Judges 20:6).

Watson – “Every crime is not a heinous crime; but adultery is

a heinous crime. The adulterer steals from his neighbor that

 which is more than his goods and estate; he steals away

 his wife from him, who is flesh of his flesh.”

Jeremiah 29:23 *They have done an outrageous thing in* *Israel,*

 *they have committed adultery with their neighbors’ wives*.

KJB *villany*, NKJ *disgraceful* – Heb. *shameful act of wickedness*.

This word was used of gang rape (Judges 19:23-24) and incest

(II Sam. 13:12 Amnon raped Tamar).

It violates the covenant the husband and wife made before God.

* It ruins their relationship with each other.
* It ruins the family bond with their children.
* It sets an example for their children to follow.

**2. It is a deliberate sin.**

II Samuel 11:2-4 *David saw a woman bathing and she was beautiful. He inquired and they told him she was the wife of Uriah. David sent messengers and took her and he lay with her.*

David could have looked away after seeing Bathsheba bathing.

* He could have walked away from looking at her.
* He could have resisted the temptation of meeting with her.
* Instead, he deliberately chooses to meet her.

**3. People instinctively know adultery is wrong.**

Genesis 39:10-11 Potiphar’s wife tempted Joseph when none

of the other household servants were around.

Job 24:15-16 *The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, “No eye will see me” and he veils his face. In the dark they dig*

 *through houses; by day they shut themselves up.*

Gill – “The adulterer foolishly fancies that God sees him not,

 or at least is not concerned about that.”

 **Punishment**

Leviticus 20:10 *If a man commits adultery . . . both the*

*adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*

Henry – “Lying with another man’s wife was made a capital crime. The adulterer and the adulteress that had joined in the sin must

fall alike under the sentence: they shall both be *put to death.*

 Itis a presumptuous contempt of an ordinance of God,

 and a violation of his covenant.”

 **RESIST ADULTERY**

**1. Sexual temptation can come from anyone.**

Genesis 39:7 *After a time Potiphar’s wife cast her eyes*

 *on Joseph and said, “Lie with me.”*

**2. Sexual temptation can come when we do not expect it.**

Genesis 39:10-11 Potiphar’s wife tempted Joseph when

none of the other men were around.

**3. Remember that God knows everything we do.**

Proverbs 15:3 *The eyes of the Lord are in every place*

 *keeping watch over the evil and the good*.

Genesis 39:8-9 Joseph refused to go to bed with Potiphar’s wife. “*How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God*?”

**4. Control what you allow yourself to see – videos and people**

Job 31:1 He said, “*I made a covenant with my eyes*

 *not to look lustfully at a woman*.”

**5. Control your thoughts – don’t allow lust to control you.**

Matthew 5:28-29 *Everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

*If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away.*

**APPLICATION**

Chuck Swindoll in, *The Finishing Touch*, gave a list of some

of the consequences of adultery:

1. Your mate will experience the anguish of betrayal,

shame, rejection, heartache, and loneliness.

No amount of repentance will soften those blows.

2. Your mate can never again say that you are a model of fidelity.

Their suspicion will rob you of their trust.

3. Your escapade(s) will introduce to your life and your mates’

life the very real probability of a sexually transmitted disease.

4. The total devastation your sinful actions will bring to your children is immeasurable. Their growth, innocence, trust,

and healthily outlook on life will be severely and permanently damaged.

5. The heartache you will cause your parents, your family,

and your peers is indescribable.

6. The embarrassment of facing other Christians, who once appreciated you, respected you, and trusted you, will be overwhelming.

7. If you are engaged in the Lord’s work you will suffer immediate loss of job and the support of those with whom you worked. The dark shadow will accompany you everywhere . . . and forever.

Forgiveness won’t erase it.

8. Your fall will give others license to do the same.

9. The inner peace you enjoyed will be gone.

10. You will never be able to erase the fall from your (or other’s) mind. This will remain indelibly etched on your life’s record,

Regardless of your later return to your senses.

11. The name of Jesus Christ, whom you once honored,

will be tarnished, giving the enemies of the faith further

reason to sneer and reject.

**CONCLUSION**

*May All Who Come Behind Us Find Us Faithful.*

*We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road
And those who've gone before us line the way
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary
Their lives, a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace*

*Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses
Let us run the race, not only for the prize
But as those who've gone before us
Let us leave to those behind us the heritage of faithfulness
Passed on through godly lives*

*After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone
And our children sift through all we've left behind
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find.*

*Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey
Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.*

**PRAYER**

The prayer, *Weaknesses*, in the Valley of Vision:

O Spirit of God, Help my infirmities . . .

If thou seest in me

 any wrong thing encouraged,

 any evil desire cherished,

 any delight that is not thy delight,

 any habit that grieves thee,

 any nest of sin in my heart,

 then grant me the kiss of thy forgiveness,

 and teach my feet to walk in the way of

 thy commandments.

Give me power to live as thy child in all my actions,

 and to exercise sonship by conquering self.